

The Great Reversal • A Series Through the Book of Revelation

If God Had an Alarm Clock it Would Sound Like Trumpets

Synopsis: John recalls the Exodus plagues and the unrepentance of Egypt as a normative pattern in history, and the church as a prophetic voice with an unassailable (yet unexpected) method of victory.

Sermon Text: Revelation 8:6 - 11:19

Revelation 8:6-9:21 (ESV)

I. THE WORLD GETS STUBBORN

Similarly, even when God judges the nations, they do NOT repent, like Pharaoh.

Rev. 9:20-21

If God had an alarm clock it would sound like trumpets.

Stop hitting the snooze button! (instead, repent). Don't judge others suffering. Look at self.

Revelation 10:1-11 (ESV)

John sets the example and goes first, eating the scroll, like Ezekiel. Scroll is God's will, desire, kingdom.

II. THE CHURCH WILL SUFFER

Revelation 11:1-19 (ESV)

1. Literal Temple or New Temple

Measuring the Temple, but not the outer courts (11:1-2)

- Temple (in NT/Revelation) is Body of Christ
- Verse 2 shows the outer courts are susceptible to attack

Some in the church will succumb to compromise. But the Lamb will give those who suffer the victory.

III. THE CHURCH WILL PERSEVERE

Two Witnesses (**11:3-12**)

The church takes up the prophetic mantle of Elijah and Moses, calling power structures to turn from idolatry. Beast later kills some of them, but they rise up and are vindicated. (**Rev.13**)

GREAT REVERSAL: God's judgment alone does not bring people to repent, but some DO repent when God's people take up the Lamb's cross and lovingly give themselves for others.

IV. THE LAMB WILL GUIDE US

Character should be the biggest desire among Christians right now.

The closer we resemble the character of Jesus, the more effective the church will be in the world.

Christian life is one of getting our character to match the character of Jesus by the power of the Spirit. This is often called discipleship, maturity, or spiritual formation..

At Reality, we do this by focusing on identity, membership, practice, and mission.

FIRST STEP: You can't become like someone that you're never around. Who or what are you around most?